



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Bilal Bahadir Karaca

Title: **The Position of Visegrad Countries Toward the European Policy on Illegal Immigration and Asylum.**

Programme/year: MAIN/2019

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): **Martin Jeřábek**

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	21
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	30
<i>Total</i>		80	56
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	17
TOTAL		100	73



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis of the candidate is highly ambitious in the number of its aims. The central research question – how the Visegrad states deal with the “*Illegal Immigration and Asylum*” in context of the EU immigration policy during the refugee crisis (page 4) – could well contribute to the debate on the former communist states of Central Europe (Visegrad group) and their position in the EU. Detailed hypotheses are developed on page 5. However, additional set of hypotheses was included as related topics, for example: history of the EU (p. 11), MENA region (p. 32), Arab Spring, history of the Visegrad Group (p. 7). All these topics are relevant to the description of historical and geopolitical context of the migration crisis and the reaction of the EU and the Visegrad countries. This approach led to the division of the thesis into several “part-analyses” that did not directly/or indirectly contribute to the solution of the main question. The most important part of the thesis (on the position of the Visegrad group countries) was therefore limited to chapter 4.2. (pp. 51-56). This is not sufficient for a detailed analysis.

I would like to appreciate the theoretical background mentioned in chapter 2 especially the use of two theoretical approaches “*neorealism*” and “*liberal institutionalism*”. The theory of “*push and pull factors*” (chapter 2.3.) is very suitable to the issue of migration. The necessary definitions of “*Immigration, Asylum, Refugee*” (pp. 14-15) are also included. I see the biggest shortcoming of the thesis in not using the solid theoretical foundations to explain the presented empirical evidence.

Minor criteria:

I would like to appreciate that the candidate used wide range of relevant sources to the topic of the Visegrad countries. Other secondary literature is used to explain the theory and the historical and geopolitical context of the migration issue.

I have the following concern to the use of quotations. If possible the use of original sources is strictly preferred to quoting secondary literature. In the text of the thesis there are several times used only the secondary sources, for example: p. 55 comment of Fico (Fn 136); p. 6 Friedrich Naumann (Fn 15); p. 10 Alexander Dugin (Fn 23) etc. The candidate could also have used more primary sources to the position of Visegrad countries especially Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia (press statements, daily news, government documents).



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On p. 6 there should be more solid literature review.

The thesis is equipped with necessary figures and maps (eg. pp. 39, 40) that are placed at relevant positions in the thesis. The grammar and logical structuring of the thesis are satisfactory. Just few typos could have been avoided (p. 8: Fredrich - correctly Friedrich Naumann).

Overall evaluation:

The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding of the topic of Central Europe, the migration crisis, historical facts and the reactions of the EU and Visegrad states on the migration crisis. The original research of the thesis is mainly in chapter 4.

The deficiency of the thesis (that led to the suggested grade below) is that most of the analysis is not application of the theoretical concept. Only chapter 4 is relevant to the main research question. The candidate used many sources and presented the relevant historical context of the migration issue. However, the candidate did not manage to present adequate empirical research inspired by the theoretical approach that would constitute a comprehensive analysis.

Suggested grade: **C**

Signature:

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